

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed February 27, 2004. Claims 1-63 were pending in the application. For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowed Claims

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication in Paragraph 7 of the Office Action that Claims 1-30 and 32-63 are allowable. Furthermore, Applicants assume that Paragraph 8 of the Office Action was inadvertently inserted since Claims 6 and 7 are not dependent on a rejected base claim (they are dependent from allowed Claim 1). Therefore, Claims 6 and 7 have not been amended.

In addition, Applicant notes that the application as originally filed included two claims numbered as Claim 40. Therefore, the second Claim 40 has been cancelled and added as new Claim 63.

Objection to the Abstract

The Examiner objects to the use of the term "disclosure" in the Abstract. Therefore, Applicant has amended the Abstract to remove this term. Reconsideration and favorable action are requested.

Reference to Related Applications

Applicant has amended the specification to indicate a previous priority claim, made at the time of the filing of this Application.

Section 112 Rejection

The Examiner rejects Claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctively claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention and as being indefinite for omitting essential steps. Applicant has cancelled Claim 31 in this Response. Therefore, this rejection should now be moot. Reconsideration and favorable action is requested.

Section 102 Rejection

The Examiner also rejects Claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by a Juniper Networks press release. Again, since Claim 31 has been cancelled, this rejection should now be moot. Reconsideration and favorable action is requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Brian W. Oaks, Attorney for Applicant, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6986.

No fee is believed to be due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Attorneys for Applicant



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BRIAN W. OAKS". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "BRIAN" and the last name "OAKS" being the most distinct parts.

Reg. No. 44,981

Date: May 27, 2004

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